

Living with Threat – Bushfire Communities

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Introduction

- Provide the context for the understanding communities project
- Identify the key issues identified in discussions with stakeholders
- Identify research priorities
- Identify key aspects of the different approaches taken by service providers and researchers



Context for social research

- Australia
- Internationally



Key Issues for BCRC Stakeholders


- Policy planning and legislation
- Complexity of peri-urban zone
- Culture of organisations providing fire services
- Hazard focus of service providers versus multiple risk environment of communities
- Complex nature of issues for service providers at the local level
- Perceived inadequacy of tools to facilitate delivery at the local level
- Need for more informed education campaigns





Research Priorities

- Clarifying the relationship between policy and practice
- Documenting the complexity of the peri-urban zone
- Clarifying the nature of the multi-hazard environment for communities
- Clarifying the differences in perceptions and expectations of fire service providers and communities
- Identifying the level and nature of complexity for local service providers
- Work with service providers to identify what tools are already used and how they might be improved
- Identify community perceptions of fire hazard to allow more directed education/information campaigns





Service Providers and Researchers

Research vs. Practice

Criterion	Researcher	Practitioner
Goal	Theory construction and testing	Solve real world problems
Constituency	Other researchers around the world	Citizens in local community
Time horizon	Long-term	Short-term
Generalization	Disaster and other social phenomena	Immediate application to local context

Applied Research Bridges the Gap




Thank You

